

# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



## Biographies

### Dr. Manish Arora

Manish Arora is an environmental health dentist. He completed his PhD at the University of Sydney, Australia, and undertook postdoctoral training in Environmental Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. His research focuses on the application of elemental bio-imaging methods to reconstruct prenatal and early childhood metal exposures from deciduous and permanent teeth. He has undertaken animal and human studies where sophisticated analytical techniques (laser ablation, synchrotron and proton probes) have been used to measure the spatial distribution of metals in dental tissues. He is currently applying these techniques to explore the relationship of perinatal manganese and lead exposure with childhood neurodevelopmental outcomes.

### Dr. Andrea Baccarelli

Dr. Baccarelli is the Mark and Catherine Winkler Associate Professor of Environmental Epigenetics in the Department of Environmental Health, Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Baccarelli's research focuses on epigenomics as a unique molecular substrate reflecting the impact of environmental exposures on human health. Epigenetic marks, including DNA methylation, histone modifications, and non-coding RNAs, modify chromatin structure and gene expression without changing the underlying DNA sequence. Dr. Baccarelli's laboratory is dedicated to the investigation of environmental epigenetics at different life-stages. Ongoing projects range from the investigation of the effects of in-utero exposures to toxic metals, second-hand smoking, and psychosocial stress on the methylome of human fetal tissues to the study of the influences of air pollution on non-coding miRNA in adult and elderly individuals. Epigenetic mechanisms are investigated in relation to fetal growth and perinatal outcomes, cardiovascular function, obesity, and neuro-cognition. Active studies include investigations in the U.S., Mexico, China, Italy, Poland, Thailand, Oman, and Bangladesh.

### Dr. Linda Birnbaum

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D. is Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Toxicology Program. As NIEHS and NTP director, Birnbaum oversees a budget of \$850 million that funds biomedical research to discover how the environment influences human health and



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March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



disease. The Institute also supports training, education, technology transfer, and community outreach. The NIEHS currently funds more than 1,000 research grants.

A board certified toxicologist, Birnbaum has served as a federal scientist for nearly 31 years. Prior to her appointment as NIEHS and NTP director, she spent 19 years at the Environmental Protection Agency where she directed the largest division focusing on environmental health research. Birnbaum started her federal career with 10 years at the NIEHS—first as a senior staff fellow at the National Toxicology Program, then as a principal investigator and research microbiologist, and finally as a group leader for the Institute's Chemical Disposition Group.

Birnbaum has received many awards and recognitions. In October 2010, she was elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors in the fields of medicine and health. She was elected to the Collegium Ramazzini, received an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Rochester, and the Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Illinois. Her awards include the Women in Toxicology Elsevier Mentoring Award, the Society of Toxicology Public Communications Award, EPA's Health Science Achievement Award and Diversity Leadership Award, and 12 Science and Technology Achievement Awards, which reflect the recommendations of EPA's external Science Advisory Board, for specific publications.

Birnbaum is also an active member of the scientific community. She was vice-president of the International Union of Toxicology, the umbrella organization for toxicology societies in more than 50 countries; former president of the Society of Toxicology, the largest professional organization of toxicologists in the world; former chair of the Division of Toxicology at the American Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics; and former vice president of the American Aging Association.

She is the author of more than 700 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, abstracts, and reports. Birnbaum's own research focuses on the pharmacokinetic behavior of environmental chemicals, mechanisms of actions of toxicants, including endocrine disruption, and linking of real-world exposures to health effects. She is also an adjunct professor in the School of Public Health, the Toxicology Curriculum, and the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, as well as in the Integrated Toxicology Program at Duke University.

A native of New Jersey, Dr. Birnbaum received her M.S. and Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Illinois, Urbana.



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March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



## **Dr. Kim Boekelheide**

Kim Boekelheide is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Brown University School of Medicine. He received his B.A. from Harvard University, and M.D. and Ph.D. from Duke University. His research examines fundamental molecular mechanisms by which environmental and occupational toxicants induce testicular injury. Current projects include the study of co-exposure synergy using model testicular toxicants and the effects of in utero endocrine disruptor exposure on steroidogenesis and a predisposition to cancer. He is Director of the Brown University Superfund Research Program and the Children's Environmental Health Formative Center. His research has been continuously funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences since 1985 and he is currently a member of the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council.

## **Dr. Abee Boyles**

Abee Boyles is a Health Scientist with the Office of Health Assessment and Translation in the National Toxicology Program at NIEHS. In 2006 she received her PhD in Genetics and Genomics from Duke University and joined NIEHS in the Epidemiology Branch. Abee is the lead scientist for the Clarifying Potential Health Effects of Excess Folic Acid Intake Workshop and contributed to the Health Effects of Low-level Lead Monograph. She developed and provides support for users of the Meta Data Viewer software program.

## **Dr. Asa Bradman**

Dr. Asa Bradman is an environmental health scientist who focuses on exposures to pregnant women and children. He worked with Dr. Eskenazi to co-found CERCH in 1997 and helps direct biomonitoring and exposure studies as part of the CHAMACOS partnership in the Salinas Valley, California. He is co-Principal Investigator of the National Children's study in Kern County, CA, and also leads an initiative to improve environmental health in California child care facilities. He was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Scientific Guidance Panel for the California Environmental Contaminant Biomonitoring Program and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Center for Healthy Homes and the California Child Care Health Program Advisory Panel.



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March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



## Dr. Germaine M. Buck Louis

Germaine Buck Louis is a Senior Investigator and Director of the Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Buck Louis was formerly a professor for 13 years in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Buffalo, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences where she was the Principal Investigator for the New York State Angler Prospective Pregnancy Cohort Study. This cohort study comprising women of reproductive age was the first to focus on the relation between preconception serum PCB and OCP concentrations and a spectrum of sensitive reproductive and developmental outcomes. While at NICHD, Dr. Buck Louis serves as the Principal Investigator for the LIFE and ENDO Studies. Both cohort studies were designed to address critical data gaps regarding the relation between persistent and emerging environmental pollutants, lifestyle and human reproduction and development.

Dr. Buck Louis is an active member of several epidemiologic societies, including her service as Secretary, then President, of the *Society of Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiologic Research* and board member for the *American College of Epidemiology* and the *International Society of Environmental Epidemiology*. She has served on several committees, panels and boards for The National Academies, Pan American Health Organization, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and World Health Organization. Dr. Buck Louis has published numerous papers focusing on the determinants of human fecundity and fertility including the role of environmental chemicals, along with her recently edited textbook entitled, *Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology*.

## Dr. Gwen Collman

Gwen Collman is the Director of the Division of Extramural Research and Training. She has been involved the creation and implementation of many multidisciplinary research programs in areas such as Children's Environmental Health, Breast Cancer and the Environment, Partnerships in Environmental Public Health and the Genes, Environment and Health Initiative's Exposure Biology Program. Gwen has been active in expanding the NIEHS' extramural research program in environmental and genetic epidemiology, translation from basic environmental health science to public health and to increase our pool of junior investigators in all areas of environmental health research.



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March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



## Dr. Anthony DeLucia

Anthony J. (Tony) DeLucia, Ph.D. is a scientist by training (comparative pathology, environmental physiology, UC Davis 1970-76) who has a major interest in wellness, wellbeing, and health from his teaching, service and advocacy in chronic disease, aging, environmental, applied nutrition, and sports medicine issues. He is on the medical school faculty of the James H. Quillen College of Medicine, East Tennessee State University. He has been the principal investigator of numerous grants using bench or animal model methodologies, human exercise strategies, and more recently has collaborated on climate change-air quality modeling research. He is primarily involved in research in collaboration with and service to the community at this time, primarily through organizations such as American Lung Association, which he chaired from 2002-2003, the American Public Health Association, and the Local Government Commission. DeLucia is interested in smart growth (and built environment) issues as they relate to the economy, equity, and public health. He served ten years on the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee of the EPA and is a charter member of the NIEHS Public Interest Partners. He also contributes to action on children in nature and food systems topics in Tennessee and Southern Appalachia, as well as throughout the broader region, and on emergent issues and opportunities for food system reform. DeLucia is an avid weekend road cyclist and work week bike commuter.

## Dr. Dana Dolinoy

Dr. Dana Dolinoy serves as the John G. Searle Assistant Professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Dr. Dolinoy's laboratory investigates environmental epigenomics, the study of how nutritional and environmental factors interact with epigenetic gene regulation to shape health and disease, and she is a recipient of a ONES (Outstanding New Environmental Scientist) R01 from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to support this work. Using the viable yellow agouti mouse as an epigenetic biosensor, Dr. Dolinoy has shown that genistein, the major phytoestrogen in soy, increases DNA methylation of the *Agouti* gene, resulting in decreased incidence of adult-onset obesity, diabetes, and cancer. She has also shown that both methyl donors, such as folic acid, and genistein counteract DNA hypomethylation caused by bisphenol a (BPA), an endocrine active agent, showing that simple dietary changes can protect against the deleterious effects of environmental toxicants on the fetal epigenome.



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health



# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



Dr. Dolinoy serves as an investigator in the EPA/NIEHS P20 Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center, "Perinatal Exposures, Epigenetics, Child Obesity & Sexual Maturation." She also plays a leadership role in the NIEHS P30 Core Center, "Lifestage Exposures and Adult Diseases" and serves as a member of the Children's Working Initiative of the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research. Dr. Dolinoy holds a BA in environmental sciences and policy from Duke University, a MS in environmental sciences and engineering from the Harvard University, and a PhD in Genetics and Genomics and Integrated Toxicology from Duke University. Dr. Dolinoy is an active member of the Society of Toxicology and the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and will serve as Vice Chair of the 2013 Gordon Research Conference in Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Toxicity. She has been an invited speaker at numerous meetings, authored several peer reviewed manuscripts, and in 2011 received the Norman Kretchmer Memorial Award from ASN and the Classic Paper Award from *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

## **Dr. Christina (Christie) Drew**

Christina (Christie) Drew joined the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research, Program Analysis Branch in 2007 and became Branch Chief in 2009. She received her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Washington in 2002 for her work on transparent communication of complex environmental health decisions. She has a Masters of Health Science degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, and an undergraduate degree in Government from the College of William and Mary.

Drew has been a researcher at the University of Washington in Seattle, and the Institute for Evaluating Health Risks in Washington D.C. She has also worked at the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, and at Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Ltd in Seattle. Her research interests have included environmental health risk communication, nuclear waste cleanup, community based participatory research, geographic information systems, children's environmental health, pesticide exposure, and research evaluation.

## **Dr. Brenda Eskenazi**

Dr. Brenda Eskenazi is the Jennifer and Brian Maxwell Professor of Maternal and Child Health and Epidemiology at the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. As a neuropsychologist and epidemiologist, she has spent more than 30 years



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health



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March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



examining the effects of environmental exposures on male and female fertility, pregnancy, and children's health and development and has studied numerous agents including caffeine, cigarette smoke, environmental tobacco smoke, benzene and other solvents, lead, manganese, dioxin, organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides, flame retardants, as well as other environmental agents. She is currently the Director of the Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health (CERCH) and the Principal Investigator for the CHAMACOS project, the Seveso Women's Health Study on dioxin exposure in Italy, the C-BASS study on benzene exposure in China, and a birth cohort study in South Africa on DDT and pyrethroids. She is a founding member of the International Society of Children's Health and the Environment (ISCHE).

### **Dr. David Evans**

David Evans, PhD, serves as the director of the Community Translation and Outreach Core (COTC) of CCCEH. He is Professor Emeritus of Clinical Sociomedical Sciences and Special Lecturer in the Department of Pediatrics, Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons and the Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health (MSPH). Dr. Evans is a behavioral scientist with experience in developing and evaluating health education programs for children with asthma and their families in the NM community, and has studied integrated pest management (IPM) in public housing.

### **Dr. Elaine Faustman**

Elaine M. Faustman is a professor of environmental and occupational health sciences at the University of Washington, School of Public Health and directs the Institute for Risk Analysis and Risk Communication. Her research interests include understanding molecular mechanisms of developmental and reproductive toxicants, characterizing in vitro techniques and developing biologically based dose-response models for non-cancer risk assessment. Her research expertise includes the development of tools for incorporating new scientific findings into risk assessment decisions. Dr. Faustman is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society for Risk Analysis. She is the Secretary General for the International Union of Toxicology. She has served on numerous committees for NIEHS including the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors and for the World Health Organization (including Environmental Health Criteria Document Committees for modeling dose-response and children's risk assessment). She has also been involved in National Research Council committees, including the Committee on Spacecraft Exposure Guidelines, Sub Committee for Zinc-Cadmium Sulfide and Upper Reference Levels of Nutrients for the Food and Nutrition Board (IOM) and the Committee on Toxicology. She



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health



# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



chaired the NAS Committee on Developmental Toxicology. She currently serves on the USEPA Scientific Advisory Panel. From 2001–2008, Dr. Faustman was an Adjunct Professor for the Department of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Faustman is a PI of a USEPA/NIEHS funded Center for Child Environmental Health Risks Research; NIEHS/NSF funded Pacific Northwest Center for Human Health and Ocean Studies and a PI of the Pacific Northwest Center for the National Children's Study. She is the elected Sigma Xi Lecturer for SRA for 2012–2014. Dr. Faustman received a PhD in toxicology from Michigan State University.

## **Dr. Symma Finn**

Symma Finn, PhD is an applied anthropologist with training in both environmental and medical anthropology and linguistics. Her background includes research administration for a rare genetic disease organization where she assisted with the establishment of a patient registry to serve as a cohort for research and future data sharing. She has recently completed an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship in the NIH Office of Science Policy/Office of Biotechnology Activities, organized sessions on genomic data sharing for the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society's, and subsequently worked on NIH-wide GWAS policy development and implementation. Dr. Finn has recently joined the NIEHS Division of Extramural Research and Training to provide program administration for projects on social scientific topics.

## **Mary Gant**

Mary Gant serves as congressional liaison for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institutes of Health. She advises the NIEHS director and staff on congressional activities and legislation related to biomedical and environmental research and regulation and provides information on NIEHS research to Congressional committees and staff

Previously, Ms. Gant was a Senior Policy Analyst in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Executive Office of the President. Her responsibilities included issues related to biomedical research; events involving scientists and engineers, such as the presentation of the National Medal of Science and the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching; and staff support to the US-Brazil Presidential Panel on Science and Technology Cooperation. She served as Executive Secretary of the Biotechnology Science Coordinating Committee of the FCCSET and was a member of the



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health





# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



Domestic Policy Council Working Group on Health Issues, the Committee on Spinal Cord Injury, Keystone Working Groups on Biotechnology and R&D Policy, and the Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects.

Before joining the Office of Science and Technology, Ms. Gant worked for the Office of Energy Research, U.S. Department of Energy. She worked for the university research instrumentation program and for the Energy Research Advisory Board. In addition, she served as Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Waste operations and Technology, now under the Assistant Secretary of Defense Programs, and as Staff Assistant to the Secretary of Energy. In 1979, she worked for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics. Prior to 1979, she taught mathematics and computer programming at both the secondary and university levels.

## **Amy Garcia**

Amy Garcia, MSN, RN, CAE, a nurse leader with more than 30 years of health care and leadership experience, is the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) of the American Nurses Association (ANA). As CNO, Garcia is responsible for ANA's programmatic and content areas including ethics and human rights; nursing practice and policy; government relations; nursing quality and safety; and occupational and environmental health. Additionally, she is a key member of the executive leadership team, which is charged with leading the implementation of the association's strategic plan.

Prior to joining ANA, she served as the executive director of the National Association of School Nurses, Inc. (NASN), one of ANA's organizational affiliates. Among her many accomplishments at NASN was a 38 percent increase in membership, improved visibility for school nurses at the local, state and national levels, an expanded external relations program and strengthened research networks.

In addition to her association leadership experience, she has broad experience as a small business owner, in risk management, staff development, legislative initiatives and direct patient care. She has been employed in a variety of settings, including acute care, education, and consulting. Garcia was employed by Wichita Public Schools as the risk Manager and Employee Benefits Supervisor and the president of Self Insured Health and Disabilities Plan. Garcia has worked as a senior loss control specialist for Lockton Companies; a safety officer/director for Via Christi Regional Medical Center; and an education coordinator for the Wichita Dialysis Center.



NIH... *Turning Discovery Into Health*



# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



A Kansas native, Garcia earned her undergraduate degree in nursing/adult education and a Master of Science from Wichita State University. She also earned her certification from the American Society of Association Executives. Garcia is a nationally known speaker on health care safety and school nursing issues, and has done extensive work with the media to advance issues of workplace safety and children's health.

## Jaclyn Goodrich

Jaclyn Goodrich is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Jaclyn completed her doctoral training in toxicology at the University of Michigan with research focuses in heavy metal toxicology, epidemiology, and genetics. Under the mentorship of Dana Dolinoy, her postdoctoral research aims to examine relationships between DNA methylation patterns, both globally and at specific genic regions, mercury, and lead levels in mice and in two epidemiological cohorts (Early Life Exposures in Mexico to Environmental Toxicants, ELEMENT, and the Michigan Dental Association, MDA). As a member of the University of Michigan Formative Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center, Jaclyn is studying the impact of perinatal lead exposures on DNA methylation and growth parameters at various developmental time points in mice and in children from Mexico City recruited to the ELEMENT longitudinal birth cohort.

## Dr. Kimberly Gray

Kimberly A. Gray received both her B.S. degree in Behavioral Neuroscience in and a Ph.D. in Epidemiology in from the University of Pittsburgh. During her graduate training, Dr. Gray gained experience as an interviewer and assessor while working on the Women's Health Initiative and Cardiovascular Health study. She received a National Research Service Award from NIAAA with Dr. Nancy Day to examine the long-term effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco and childhood outcomes. After her defense, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Epidemiology branch of the NIEHS with Dr. Matthew Longnecker. During this training period, she examined the long-term effects of polychlorinated biphenyl exposure during pregnancy and childhood development using the specimens and data collected from the Collaborative Perinatal Project. In August 2001 she returned to NIEHS as a Scientific Program Administrator for the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch where she directs the NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Research Centers, and the larger environmental pediatric epidemiology portfolio supported by NIEHS. She also serves as the NIEHS senior advisor for certificates



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health



# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



of confidentiality, is a member of the NIEHS protocol advisory board, and is the NIEHS liaison of the Interagency Coordinating Committee to the National Children's Study.

## **Dr. Peter Grevatt**

Peter Grevatt is the Director of the Office of Children's Health Protection and serves as the Senior Advisor to EPA Administrator Jackson for Children's Environmental Health. He is responsible for ensuring that all EPA decisions are protective of children's health and that EPA is an international leader on children's environmental health issues.

In addition to leading EPA's efforts on children's health, Peter has held leadership roles in EPA's national hazardous waste and water quality programs. After beginning his career in the private sector, he served as the senior health scientist addressing health risks related to contaminated sites in New York and New Jersey with EPA's NY field office.

Peter received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Basic Medical Sciences from New York University Medical Center and earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from Earlham College.

## **Dr. Nina Holland**

Dr. Holland is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Health and a Director of the SPH biorepository and the Children's Environmental Health Laboratory. She has a background in genetics with extensive experience in molecular epidemiology, and reproductive toxicology. Dr. Holland's main scientific interest is in biomarkers of children's environmental health. She has organized and chaired several sessions on this topic at national and international meetings.

Dr. Holland is a principal investigator on a study of functional genomics of pesticide sensitivity in farmworker Latino mothers and their children, and directs Epigenetics project and Biorepository in the CHAMACOS center grant. This study involves a birth cohort from Salinas Valley, CA (<http://cerch.org>), which has been followed by Professor Brenda Eskenazi and other co-investigators, for many years. In addition, Dr. Holland is assessing biomarkers associated with air pollution (ozone and biofuels) in Guatemala and California (in collaboration with Professors Kirk Smith, John Balmes and Ira Tager).

Dr. Holland is a principal instructor on the graduate course "Molecular and Genetic Epidemiology" and contributed to several other courses at the University of California,



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health



## NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



Berkeley and San Francisco. She has also taught and provided research assistance at the University of Hawaii, National Universities of Australia, Mexico, Thailand and India.

### **Dr. Sarah Janssen**

Dr. Sarah Janssen is a Senior Scientist in the Health and Environment Program of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). NRDC is a national, nonprofit environmental action organization with 1.3 million members dedicated to the protection of public health and the environment. In her capacity as a Scientist with NRDC, Dr. Janssen provides scientific expertise for policy and regulatory decisions on a number of toxic chemicals, including hormone disrupting substances which interfere with fertility and reproduction. Her work has included research on flame retardants, cosmetics and soaps, plastics and plasticizers, breast cancer and threats to adult reproductive health and child development. She is board-certified in Preventive Medicine with a subspecialty in Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Dr. Janssen is also an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of California, San Francisco in the School of Medicine where she is the Center Director for The Infant Development and Environment Study (TIDES), a 5 year study investigating prenatal exposures to chemicals and their impacts on genito-urinary development. Dr. Janssen also has a part time clinical practice at Kaiser Permanente of Northern California in the Occupational Medicine Department. Dr. Janssen is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.

Dr. Janssen completed her MD and PhD in Molecular and Integrative Physiology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2001. She did her clinical residency training at the University of California, San Francisco which included a MPH in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley.

### **Ed Kang**

Ed Kang is a key staff member in the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison. In addition to serving as the primary point of contact for the extramural community, Ed is the social media program manager for the Institute. His expertise is in communicating research findings to a wide variety of audiences, including the media and general public, using traditional and innovative methods.

Ed brings a unique and diverse perspective from his experience working in federal agencies, private industry, and academia. Prior to joining NIEHS, he led major



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## NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



communication, outreach, and education efforts at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, NASA, IBM, and the University of Vermont.

He holds a degree in business from the University of Maryland, College Park.

### **Dr. Margaret Karagas**

Professor Margaret Karagas is director of the formative Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Center at Dartmouth. She received her PhD in epidemiology from University of Washington in 1990 after which she joined the Dartmouth faculty where she heads the Section of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Her work encompasses interdisciplinary studies designed to illuminate the pathogenesis of human disease beginning early in life, and impacting health throughout the lifespan. Her interests include investigating emerging exposures and applying innovative exposure-related biomarkers.

### **Dr. Cindy Lawler**

Cindy Lawler, PhD is a Program Director in the Division of Extramural Research and Training at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, one of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Lawler is the primary NIEHS representative for extramural autism activities; this includes responsibilities as a program official for the NIH-funded Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation (EARLI) study, the Childhood Autism Risk from Genes and Environment (CHARGE) study, the Markers of Autism Risk in Babies-Learning Early Signs (MARBLEs) and a multidisciplinary Center that addresses environmental contributors to autism. In addition to her programmatic role in autism activities, Dr. Lawler has lead responsibility for management of the NIEHS extramural portfolio of research in Parkinson's disease research. Prior to joining NIEHS, Dr. Lawler was a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and the Brain and Development Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she conducted NIH-supported research in behavioral neuroscience, with an emphasis on dopamine receptor pharmacology and development of novel pharmacologic agents to treat diseases and disorders related to altered dopamine neurotransmission.

### **Nica Louie**

Nica Louie is an Environmental Health Scientist and Project Officer for EPA's National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) and is currently co-leading the EPA/NIEHS



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health



# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers Program ("Children's Centers") as well as the Environmental Public Health Indicator (EPHI) grants portfolios. Her portfolio includes 7 Children's Centers and 15 EPHI grants. As Project Officer, Ms. Louie is responsible for identifying and recommending research priorities, preparing briefings for senior management, writing Requests for Applications (RFAs), and making funding recommendations. Her efforts include day to day management of the grants, communicating research findings to stakeholders through arranging webinars, developing and maintaining program websites, and conducting progress review conferences. Ms. Louie's work is critical to identifying and reducing children's environmental health risks and translating research findings into intervention methods with the goal of preventing adverse health outcomes from environmental pollutants.

Prior to joining EPA, Ms. Louie had an esteemed 20-year career in the private sector as an environmental health scientist and Project Manager. Her work supported multiple EPA offices, the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC). She has extensive experience managing teams of staff in preparing scientific and technical documents, developing databases and conducting reviews and risk/exposure assessments. Examples of her work include managing the preparation of the *Review of Exposure Data and Assessments for Select Dialkyl Ortho-Phthalates* in 2010 and authoring the section analyzing children's exposure to toys; authoring the chapter on *Ingestion of Water and Other Select Liquids* in the revised *Child-Specific Exposure Factors Handbook* in 2008. She also contributed to the revisions of the *Exposure Factors Handbook* (1997, 2011) and was a key participant in the detailed review of the *Interim Environmental Exposure Report: Pesticides in the Gulf* (2001). She contributed extensively to the *Environmental Loadings Profile for Cook County, IL, and Lake County, IN* (1997) and was the main author for the chapter analyzing pollutants in sediments in water bodies.

Ms. Louie received her B.S. in Occupational Health and Hygiene from London South Bank University and her M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University. Her graduate research investigated the potential correlation between methylmercury concentrations in maternal cord blood with fish tissue concentrations and other variables.

## Daniel S. Madrigal

Mr. Madrigal is the community outreach coordinator for the Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health (CERCH). Part of the Center's work is on the environmental hazards to the Latino farmworker community in the Salinas Valley, California. The keystone



NIH... Turning Discovery Into Health



# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



project of CERCH in this community is CHAMACOS, a longitudinal birth cohort study. Mr. Madrigal coordinates various strategies to share study findings with participants, local community members, and policy makers as well as activities to increase awareness and knowledge about children's environmental health among low income Latino communities statewide. Additionally, Mr. Madrigal acts as a liaison to communicate community needs and priorities with study researchers. Community engagement and outreach strategies have included: a community advisory board, a farmworker council, a grower council, community forums, health education presentations, puppet shows for children, a youth empowerment group, a prenatal environmental health kiosk, and a robust web presence. He holds an MPH in epidemiology and biostatistics from the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, and has previous experience as a health educator in similar communities.

## **Dr. Pamela Maxson**

Dr. Pamela Maxson is the Research Director of the Children's Environmental Health Initiative and the COTC Director and Project Manager for the Southern Center on Environmentally Driven Disparities in Birth Outcomes (SCEDDBO), at Duke University. Her research interests lie in maternal and child health and health disparities including the environmental, social, and individual influences on outcomes.

## **Dr. Kimberly McAllister**

Dr. McAllister received a B.S. in Honors Biology at University of Illinois and a Ph.D. in Human Genetics at University of Michigan. Her Ph.D. dissertation involved identifying the first gene known to cause the disease Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia. She completed postdoctoral training and a research fellowship in intramural NIEHS with research focusing on the development of Brca2-deficient mice as a model for breast cancer and Fanconi Anemia. Dr. McAllister is presently a program administrator in the extramural division of NIEHS in the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch. She manages a portfolio of grants in genetic epidemiology, human genetics, G x E methods, basic genetics, DNA repair, and animal model/comparative biology.

## **Karen Joy Miller**

Karen Miller, founder and president of Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition was established in 1992; survivor with over 20 years of public health advocacy focused on environmental triggers. Serves on advisory boards - National Conversation on Public



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# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



Health & Chemical Exposures Education & Communication; Breast Cancer & Environment Research Centers; Interagency Breast Cancer & Environmental Research Coordinating Committee; NYS Breast Cancer Network; Breast Cancer Detection & Cervical Education Council; Governor's Sustainability & Green Procurement Council; Pollution Prevention Institute; Children's Environmental Health Center, Mount Sinai; Suffolk County's Cancer Awareness Task Force; JustGreen Partnership; and Neighborhood Network.

Initiated "Prevention Is The Cure" campaign awareness to environmental links & disease. Instrumental in securing legislation ban the use of BPA in baby products for Suffolk County and New York State. She has received numerous awards, proclamations and special recognitions. Next five years, partner with Mt. Sinai on NIEHS, Breast Cancer and Environment Research Program's Windows of Susceptibility research.

## **Cynthia Pellegrini**

Cynthia Pellegrini is Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs at the March of Dimes. In this capacity, Ms. Pellegrini oversees all March of Dimes advocacy efforts at the federal level and in all 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. She also guides the organization's research on maternal and child health policy issues. Key March of Dimes policy priorities include access to health care for all women of childbearing age and children; research into prematurity, birth defects, and other aspects of reproductive and child health and development; prevention and health promotion issues, such as tobacco cessation and nutrition; and issues of concern to the operation of not-for-profit organizations.

Prior to joining March of Dimes, Ms. Pellegrini served as Associate Director for Federal Affairs at the American Academy of Pediatrics, where she covered a range of issues including genetics, bioethics, child abuse and neglect, environmental health, nutrition, obesity, and injury and violence. In this capacity, Ms. Pellegrini worked with AAP leadership to develop and execute strategies to advance AAP priorities through both Congress and the Administration.

Ms. Pellegrini worked on Capitol Hill for over eleven years. From 1996 to 2004, she served as Chief of Staff and health aide to Rep. Louise Slaughter (NY). Her tenure on Capitol Hill also included stints with Reps. Gerald Kleczka (WI) and Jay Inslee (WA). She has published on trends in federal public health and preparedness spending and served on the National Commission on Children and Disasters' Pediatric Medical Care Subcommittee. Ms.



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# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



Pellegrini has an extensive background in public policy issues as well as politics and administration.

## **Dr. Karen Peterson**

Karen E. Peterson, ScD. Dr. Peterson is Professor and Director of the Human Nutrition Program, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Her research focuses on the influence of adverse exposures on child growth and maturation during sensitive developmental periods and the potential mediating influence of dietary quality and lifestyle behaviors on exposure-outcome associations in multi-ethnic, low income populations. Dr. Peterson is Principal Investigator of the P20 Formative Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Center (P20 ES018171-01/RD834800): "Perinatal exposures, epigenetics, child obesity & sexual maturation", serves as Associate Director of the University of Michigan Nutrition and Obesity Research Center (P30DK089503) and directs the Nutrition Assessment Laboratory of the Exposure Core of the UM Environmental Health Science Core Center (P30 ES017885): "Lifestage exposures and adult disease".

## **Brennan Rhodes**

Brennan Rhodes, MPH, is Program Coordinator of COTC and oversees proposed COTC projects, including: planning and implementing community outreach events; developing educational messages for the outreach materials; managing policy translation efforts; co-chairing the Community Advisory and Stakeholder Board (CASB); coordinating media outreach and Center communications; and maintaining the Center's partnership with WE ACT, an environmental health advocacy organization. She holds an MPH with a concentration in Sociomedical Sciences from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

## **Dr. Patrick Ryan**

Patrick H. Ryan, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Environmental Health at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. An environmental epidemiologist, his research interests are in the fields of air pollution epidemiology and exposure assessment. Dr. Ryan is the principal investigator of the Cincinnati Anti-Idling Campaign Study, an academic-community partnership to examine and reduce the impact of traffic-related air pollution at schools on children with asthma. He is also co-PI of a collaborative study to develop and field test, in a cohort of asthmatic children, a personal sensor to measure



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# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



exposure to ultrafine particles. Dr. Ryan also serves as co-investigator of the Cincinnati Childhood Allergy and Air Pollution Study (CCAAPS), a longitudinal birth cohort study of the effects of diesel exhaust particles on the development of allergies and asthma. His research with the CCAAPS study includes the development of land-use regression models for air pollution exposure assessment and the association between air pollution and neurobehavioral development. Additional research includes studies of indoor pollutants and mold, environmental exposure to asbestos in Libby, MT, and the elemental composition of PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

## **Dr. Rebecca Schmidt**

Rebecca J. Schmidt, M.S., Ph.D., is Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of California – Davis, School of Medicine. Her research goal is to advance understanding of how environmental exposures, primarily those occurring during gestation, interact with genetic susceptibility to influence neurodevelopmental outcomes for children, and more broadly, reproductive health and child development. As a molecular epidemiologist, she tends to approach epidemiologic research from a mechanistic and pathways perspective. Dr. Schmidt has over 10 years of experience in epidemiological research that began at the University of Iowa College of Public Health with her dissertation that examined gene by environment interactions as risk factors for congenital malformations, including neural tube defects. She expanded this research to other neurodevelopmental outcomes as a postdoctoral fellow in the 2-year Autism Research Training Program (ARTP) at the M.I.N.D. (Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders) Institute as part of the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department of the UC Davis School of Medicine in Sacramento. In 2010, she became a faculty member of the UC Davis Department of Public Health Sciences, the UC Davis Graduate Group for Epidemiology, and the MIND Institute. She teaches a course on Molecular Epidemiology and co-teaches Reproductive Epidemiology. Her research has focused largely on interaction effects between maternal nutrition and the genome in relation to autism spectrum disorders, potentially through epigenetic mechanisms. In work recognized as among the most important in 2011 by Autism Speaks and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Dr. Schmidt and her colleagues were the first to identify a significant association between an easily modifiable factor, periconceptional prenatal vitamin intake, and reduced risk for autism spectrum disorders. In addition, they were among the first to report significant gene-by-environment interaction effects for autism, which could help explain some of the variation in findings across autism genetics studies.



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# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



## **Peggy Shepard**

Peggy Shepard, BA, co-founder and executive director of WE ACT, serves as co-director of the COTC. A recipient of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Heinz Award for the Environment, Ms. Shepard served as the first female Chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and is co-Chair of its Research and Science workgroup. She is a former member of the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council of the National Institutes of Health and a member of the mayor's NYC Sustainability Advisory Board. Ms. Shepard directs WE ACT staff outreach and engagement activities and works with COTC to organize press briefings and roundtables for policy-makers, provide testimony at local and state government hearings, and develop community forums and conferences.

## **Dr. Stanley Szefer**

Dr. Stanley Szefer is the Helen Wohlberg and Herman Lambert Chair in Pharmacokinetics at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado. He is Professor of Pediatrics and Pharmacology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Szefer's major contributions are directed toward the appropriate use of long-term control therapy in asthma. He is a member of the Expert Panel for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's National Asthma Education and Prevention Program on "Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma." He is Co-Director and Pediatric Health Specialist for the NIEHS/EPA Childhood Environmental Health Center Grant at National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado.

## **Dr. Claudia Thompson**

Dr. Claudia Thompson is the Branch Chief for the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch (SPHB) in the Division of Extramural Research and Training (DERT) at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. Claudia joined DERT in 1994 as a scientific program administrator with responsibilities for program management and analysis of scientific accomplishments and scientific direction for the Superfund Research Program (SRP) within the Chemical Exposures and Molecular Biology Branch and later the Center for Risk and Integrated Sciences. She was responsible for building the grant portfolio the scientific areas of biomarker (exposure, effect and susceptibility) development, metabolic toxicology, chemical mixtures research and molecular mechanisms of metal toxicity and carcinogenicity. In response to national disasters, Claudia took the lead in coordinating World Trade Center research and outreach activities; she assisted in the response of NIEHS



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## NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and most recently, Claudia is providing leadership to the Deepwater Horizon Disaster Academic Community Research Consortium that she developed as an extramural program to understand the potential health impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Disaster on community members residing in the Gulf States. Claudia has been recognized for her contributions to the NIEHS mission, receiving NIH Directors Awards, NIH Merit Awards, and the DHHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Since April 2011, she has been the Branch Chief for the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch.

Dr. Thompson received her Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Bradley University in Peoria Illinois and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Nutrition from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to joining DERT in 1994, Claudia was a research scientist for ten years in the Laboratory of Biochemical Risk Analysis in the Division of Intramural Research at NIEHS.

### **Kelly Widener**

Mrs. Kelly Widener assumed the position of Assistant Center Director of Research Communications for the National Center for Environmental Research in February 2011. In this assignment, Mrs. Widener is responsible for developing strategic communication programs and public affairs campaigns that leverage all available communications conduits and emerging technologies to most effectively communicate the Center's programs and supported research initiatives. She serves as the principal advisor on communication and public affairs matters for NCER leading to the development of organizational positions on communication interactions and establishing precedents for activities on communication issues.

### **Nsedu Obot Witherspoon**

Ms. Witherspoon serves as the Executive Director for the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), where her responsibilities include successfully organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. Ms. Witherspoon has directed and been personally involved in the oversight and organization of CEHN's Strategic Plan to serve as the "Voice for Children's Environmental Health" in the nation's capital for the past 12 years. She serves as a key spokesperson for children's vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country. She is a leader in the field of children's environmental health, serving as a member of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee for the Environmental



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# NIEHS and EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers: *Strengthening the Network*

March 6–7, 2012 • NIH Campus, Bethesda, Md.



Protection Agency (EPA) and a member of the Institute of Medicine's Environmental Health Sciences Roundtable. She is also a member of the Friends of the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health and a Board member for the Pesticide Action Network North America. Ms. Witherspoon is Past Chair of the Intersection Council of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and a former APHA Executive Board Member. Ms. Witherspoon is a past member of the National Association of Environmental Health Sciences Council and past Coordinator for the NIEHS Public Interest Partners. She has a BS in Biology and a Master's in Public Health in Maternal and Child Health, from The George Washington University School of Public Health.

## **Dr. Robert Wright**

Dr. Robert Wright is a pediatrician and epidemiologist at Children's Hospital, Boston and Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). He is the Director of the Harvard Superfund Research Program and is the Principal Investigator of an ongoing birth cohort in Mexico City (Early Life Exposures in Mexico and Environmental Toxicology-ELEMENT) in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health, Mexico and the National Institute of Perinatology. He also founded the (Metals Assessment Targeting Community Health) MATCH study in Tar Creek, Oklahoma. His research expertise is in the field of gene-environment interaction in child development and the role of psychosocial stressors as modifiers of metal toxicity. He has published over 100 papers, most of which deal with Environmental Health issues and served on numerous national committee/advisory boards in the field of Pediatric Environmental Health. Dr. Wright directs the Metals Research Core at HSPH, and the affiliated environmental chemistry laboratory. He is the Research Director of the Region 1, Pediatric Environmental Health Subspecialty Unit and member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Environmental Health.



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